

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Covina Police Department

444. N. Citrus Ave.
Covina, CA 91723

Crime Prevention

626-384-5630

cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Non-Emergency Dispatch

626-384-5808

Records Division

(626) 384-5656

Covina Jail

(626) 384-5638

Property / Evidence

(626) 384-5645

Traffic Division

(626) 384-5674

Detective Bureau

(626) 384-5628

Safe Holiday Shopping

The Covina Police Department, like many citizens of Covina, is preparing for the holiday shopping season.

We've compiled some tips in hopes the citizens of Covina, and residents from neighboring cities shopping in Covina, enjoy a safe and festive shopping experience. These tips can also be applied in your daily lives to make you and your loved ones harder targets for would be criminals.

Whenever possible, use the buddy system and shop with a friend or a relative. There is truly safety in numbers.

Park your car in a well-lit area and avoid leaving



packages visible inside your car while you shop. Smash and grab crimes are all too common and leaving your passenger compartment free of tempting items for thieves significantly decrease the odds you'll be victimized.

Be careful of what you post online. You don't always know your online

"friends" well and its best not to alert others that you aren't at home or that you have purchased desirable items.

Consolidate packages so you're a less desirable target for criminals looking to steal your belongings right off your front porch as you unload your haul. **Cont... page 2**

Graffiti and Gangs

Graffiti is everywhere! In the worst case scenario, graffiti can be a sign of trouble, an indicator that gang members are present and gang activity is occurring. Crossed out graffiti replaced by rival graffiti may indicate a challenge to a rival gang

that may lead to a violent confrontation.

Often, gangs and tagging crews use graffiti to mark their territory, which is why removing graffiti promptly is important. If graffiti is allowed to stay, it sends a message of

apathy to gangs and taggers that it is ok to vandalize property, and it invites more graffiti, often from rival gangs and tagging crews. If graffiti is removed promptly, it serves to notify criminals that **Cont... Page 2**

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Graffiti and Gangs (Continued)

Residents and police are united in our efforts to keep Covina neighborhoods crime free, and that we aren't interested in allowing gang members and taggers to claim any part of our city for themselves.

While gangs and tagging crews are most often responsible for graffiti in Covina, there are taggers, sometimes called "Oner(s)", who tag their monikers with no affiliation to a gang or crew.

The difference between a tagging crew and street gang is difficult to define because often the line is blurred. Tagging crews typically graffiti to get name recognition, but are less likely to be involved in the violent crime and narcotics sales typical of street gangs. Covina Police officers have documented a number of former taggers however, that later graduated to participation in known criminal street gangs.

The Covina Police Department urges the citizens of Covina to aid us in sending a message to gang members and taggers that they are not welcome in our city and we will not tolerate their criminal activity.

To report graffiti in public rights-of-way within the Covina City limits, call (626) 384-5599. Please provide the following information:

1. The address where the graffiti is located - For example, "125 E College St." or "At the intersection of Citrus and College."
2. The location of the graffiti (be as detailed as possible) - Such as, "On the south-west block wall," or "On the stop sign facing east."
3. Your phone number - This information is needed in case the graffiti removal staff needs more information.

Safe Holiday Shopping (Continued)

Women should wear their purses across their bodies to keep their hands free. This also makes for a more difficult target for would be purse-snatchers.

Hide purchases from plain view in your home to help prevent a burglary. Often people place their wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree with the window wide open for passers-by to see.

Be just as vigilant about your surroundings during the daylight hours. A crime can occur at any time and it's important to stay alert while you are walking to your car. Talking or texting on your phone or digging in your purse for your keys while walking is a distraction, and could make you more vulnerable.

A good restaurant meal or a movie can be very relaxing after a long day working and/or shopping, and thieves know it too. We recommend unloading your haul from your vehicle if you choose to unwind with the meal and/or movie and need to park your car for a long time. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Covina Police Crime Statistics – October 2012

		THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR TO DATE
ARRESTS	ADULT	286	2,385
	JUVENILE	25	303
BURGLARY	RESIDENTIAL	9	130
	COMMERCIAL	13	156
TRAFFIC	PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENTS	44	483
	INJURY ACCIDENTS	14	113



The Covina Police Department website offers an updated snapshot of where crimes are being reported within our city and surrounding areas. You can choose the types of crimes you want to view by checking and un-checking available boxes.

To view our interactive Crime Map click on the link or copy it into your web browser

<http://www.covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereportscom>

Citizens Wanted! Interest list forming for Citizens Academy

The Citizens' Academy is a seven week program designed to educate Covina residents and business people about the inner-workings of the Covina Police Department. Students meet at the police department on Thursday nights from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and are provided instruction on a variety of topics by Covina Police Department Personnel. Topics of instruction include Criminal Law, Narcotics and Gangs, Recruiting and Training, and Internal Affairs among others. Students will participate in a patrol ride along, and range staff will instruct them on firearms safety and allow them to complete a range session using a department issued firearm.

The Covina Police Department is forming an interest list for the next Citizen's Academy, likely to begin in Spring 2013. If you think you might be interested, or want more information about the class, contact Community Services Specialist Candace Bobkiewicz at (626) 384-5630, or cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov